

EXHIBIT 1

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CLAIMS ON APPEAL:

1. An introduction device for introducing an object into a vessel of a body, comprising:

a tubular channel and a dilator carrying the channel, wherein the dilator comprises a conical tip portion and is adapted to be retracted from the channel, wherein the channel has a wall thickness not larger than 0.06 mm and is formed exclusively of a hard plastic material.

2. The introduction device according to claim 1, wherein the inner diameter (D1) of the channel is at least as large as the outer diameter (D2) of the dilator prior to sliding the channel onto the dilator.

3. The introduction device according to claim 2, wherein the channel forms a force fit on the dilator.

4. The introduction device according to claim 1, wherein the dilator and/or the channel comprise a low-friction slip material.

5. The introduction device according to claim 1, further comprising a connecting device for injecting a pressurized fluid into the channel.

6. The introduction device, according to claim 1, wherein the channel comprises a distal end section which at least partly overlaps the conical tip portion.

7. The introduction device according to claim 6, wherein the end section is defined by a tear-off line.

8. The introduction device according to claim 1, wherein the end section of the channel is adhesively bonded to the tip portion of the dilator.